



Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc.

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July 31, 2001

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The Honorable John Dingell  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable John Dingell:

The Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (SGNA) is a professional nursing organization of approximately 6700 nurses and associates dedicated to the safe and effective practice of gastroenterology nursing. We are writing in support of the HB2563, the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001. SGNA feels that this legislation will ensure timely access to quality medical care for Americans with private health insurance. It will allow access to emergency, specialty care and clinical trials as well as access to non-formulary drugs and important health care information. SGNA believes access to specialty medical care is crucial for early diagnosis and treatment of GI diseases as well as early intervention and treatment of esophageal, colon and pancreatic cancers.

SGNA considers that criteria with time frames for internal and external appeals procedures are important so patients can avoid prolonged delays in seeking further medical treatment and advice. SGNA is concerned that the passage of this valuable legislation will be deterred by a debate on the patient's right to sue. We feel that if quality medical care is provided, there would not be just cause for frivolous suits.

We thank you for your efforts on this bipartisan legislation and your dedication to improving accessibility and quality of health care to the American people. Please do not hesitate to contact our organization if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Margaret Coffey, BSN RN CGRN  
President

401 North Michigan Avenue

Chicago, IL 60611-4267

Phone: 312/321-5165

Fax: 312/527-6658

800/245-SGNA (7462)

SGNA@sba.com

www.sgna.org